

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A buffing or polishing material comprising:
5 a nonwoven fleece layer comprising a blend of natural fibers and synthetic fibers, a ratio by weight of natural fibers to synthetic fibers ranging between 95% natural fibers and 5% synthetic fibers to 50% natural fibers and 50% synthetic fibers; and
10 a backing layer fixed to the fleece layer, the backing layer having a greater strength and a greater dimensional stability than the fleece layer.
2. The material of claim 1, wherein the natural and
15 synthetic fibers are needle punched together.
3. The material of claim 1, further comprising a nonwoven fusible layer interposed between the fleece layer and the backing layer.
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4. The material of claim 3, the nonwoven fusible layer further comprising a polyester material.
5. The material of claim 1, wherein the fleece layer is
25 needle punched to the backing layer.
6. The material of claim 5, wherein the fleece layer forms loops on an outer side of the backing layer.

7. The material of claim 1, wherein the ratio of natural fibers to synthetic fibers comprises 85% natural fibers and 15% synthetic fibers by weight of the fleece layer.

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8. The material of claim 1, wherein the natural fibers of the fleece layer include wool, cotton, hemp, linen, flax, sisal, or jute.

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9. The material of claim 1, wherein the synthetic fibers of the fleece layer include nylon, polyester, or aramid fibers.

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10. The material of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the synthetic fibers of the fleece layer include mechanically binding fibers.

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11. The material of claim 10, wherein the mechanically binding fibers comprise up to 45% by weight of the fleece layer.

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12. The material of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the synthetic fibers of the fleece layer include chemically binding fibers.

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13. The material of claim 12, wherein the chemically binding fibers comprise polyester fibers having a lower melting temperature than a remainder of the synthetic fibers or of the natural fibers.

14. The material of claim 12, wherein the chemically binding fibers comprise up to 5% by weight of the fleece layer.

5 15. The material of claim 14, wherein a remainder of the synthetic fibers comprises up to 45% by weight of the fleece layer.

10 16. The material of claim 1, wherein the backing layer comprises a multi-filament polyester fiber layer and a polyester film layer.

15 17. The material of claim 1, wherein the backing layer comprises a nonwoven material, a woven cloth, a film, a spunbond material, a scrim, or a loop fabric.

20 18. The material of claim 1, wherein the backing layer has a break strength greater than the fleece layer and an elongation at break less than the fleece layer.

25 19. The material of claim 1, wherein the density of the fleece layer is 4.2 lb/ft³ to 9.2 lb/ft³.

30 20. The material of claim 1, wherein the material has a break strength of at least 425 pounds per linear inch in the machine direction.

21. The material of claim 1, wherein the material has an elongation at break of no more than 2%.

22. The material of claim 1, wherein the material has a thickness between 0.17 inch to 0.50 inch.

5 23. The material of claim 1, wherein the backing layer is configured to fasten to a polishing, buffing, or finishing tool.

10 24. The material of claim 1, wherein the material is in the form of a disc, an endless belt, a flapwheel, or a spiral band.

25. A buffing or polishing material comprising:
a nonwoven fleece layer comprising a blend of natural fibers and synthetic fibers;
15 a backing layer fixed to the fleece layer, the backing layer having a greater strength and a greater dimensional stability than the fleece layer; and
wherein the material has a break strength of at least 425 pounds per linear inch in the machine direction
20 and an elongation at break of no more than 2%.